

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 02452 132152Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----093125 132154Z /64

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SESTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1552

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2452

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: CONGRESSIONAL SPEECH

1. INITIAL REACTION OF VENEZUELANS TO PROPOSAL REFTEL IS
NEGATIVE. THEY CONSIDER IT IMPRACTICAL AND AN
IMPOSITION ON THE CONGRESSMEN. MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY
SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE
PRESIDENT, AND THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER
WITH THE PRE-DVANCE GROUP ON MARCH 16. I DO NOT EXPECT ANY
DECISION PRIOR TO THAT.

2. TWO ELEMENTS SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND: (A) VENEZUELANS DO
WANT A BREAKFAST, SINCE THEY ARE ELIMINATING THE SECOND
BILATERAL, AND THE BREAKFAST WOULD SERVE IN EFFECT AS THAT.
THEY DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THAT. (B) EVEN IF THE SPEECH IS
FINISHED BY 9:00 A.M., THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME, IT SEEMS TO
US, FOR PRESS FILING ANYWAY, CONSIDERING THAT THE PRESS WILL
HAVE TO LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT AHEAD OF THE PRESIDENT'S
DEPARTURE TO BE ON THEIR PLANE AND ON THEIR WAY. SO IT
IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT WE HAVE GAINED.

3. THE VENEZUELANS DO THINK IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE
CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONY BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M., AND IT COULD
BE FINISHED BY 9:45. THUS, THAT SCHEDULE WOULD LOOK LIKE
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THIS:

7:30 A.M. WORKING BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ
AT LA CASONA;

8:30 A.M. DEPART FOR CONGRESS:

8:50 A.M. ARRIVE AT CONGRESS; CEREMONIAL RECEPTION;

9:00 A.M. SOLEMN CONGRESSIONAL SESSION BEGINS;
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH;

9:40 A.M. SESSION ENDS;

9:45 A.M. DEPART CONGRESS FOR MIRAFLORES PALACE;

9:50 A.. FAREWELL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ;
ISSUANCE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE;

10:15 A.M. DEPART PALACE FOR MAIQUETIA AIRPORT
ACCOMPANIED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ;

10:40 A.. ARRIVE MAIQUETIA; BRIEF DEPARTURE CEREMONY;

10:55 A.. PRESIDENT BOARDS AIRCRAFT;

11:00 A.M. AIR FORCE ONE DEPARTS.

4. THE FOREGOING IS MY RECOMMENDATION. BUT IT DOES MEAN
REACHING A DECISION ON THE PRESS FILING PROBLEM. SOME OF
THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE AMELIORATED BY THE FACT THAT MOST
OF THE PRESS WILL BE WATCHING THE LIVE TV FROM THE PRESS
ROOM AND, IF PROVIDED SPEECH TEXT IN ADVANCE, COULD FILE
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EARLY. WE COULD HELP BY OFFERING TO COMPLETE FILING
OURSELVES.

5. ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF PROGRAM SEEM IN ORDER, AND THIS
IS THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH WHICH PRE-ADVANCE WILL HAVE TO
DEAL.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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